



spotted touch-me-not (jewelweed)

Impatiens capensis

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering
plants

Features

Spotted touch-me-not (jewelweed) is an annual herb. Its upright stems are branched, smooth, and may grow to eight feet tall. The simple leaves are toothed, smooth, and are about three inches long. They are arranged alternately on the stem. Orange flowers (up to 1 1/2 inches long) arise from the base of the leaves. Fruits are capsules up to one inch long.

Natural History

Spotted touch-me-not (jewelweed) grows in moist woods and along streambanks, marshes, and fens. It flowers from June through September. Mature capsules split open explosively when touched, throwing the seeds several feet.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; bottomland forests; natural lakes and prairie marshes; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; wet prairies and fens

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.